



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Marina del Rey TMDL – Public Survey used to track down bacteria – The Marina del Rey Harbor bacteria total maximum daily load (TMDL) became effective in March 2004. The goal of the TMDL is to reduce bacterial levels in the targeted areas such that bacteria standards are never exceeded during the dry season, and are exceeded not more than three days during the wet season. The LA Dept. of Public Works together with Caltrans, City of LA, Santa Monica BayKeeper, and others has sponsored a public survey to help identify bacterial pollution sources going into Marina del Rey Harbor. An online questionnaire includes questions on the public's observations of boat maintenance and sanitary pump-outs, irrigation runoff, sanitary sewer overflows, pet wastes, birds (a common source of elevated bacteria in runoff), garbage management, and other sources. Source control is generally the preferred approach for controlling bacteria in runoff since treatment BMPs for bacteria are not generally available. See: <http://ladpw.org/wmdl/> (go to Harbor Survey)

SF Bay Mercury TMDL – Fish tissue objective to replace water column objective – Staff from the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board plan to hold a combined public workshop and CEQA scoping meeting to address changes to the water quality standards for mercury as well as modifications to the SF Bay Mercury TMDL. The TMDL was approved by the Regional Board but rejected by the State Water Resources Control Board, which remanded the TMDL back to the Regional Board. (See *NewsFlash* 05-37) To address problems with the TMDL, the Regional Board intends to establish water quality objectives for mercury in the tissues of fish in the Bay and to delete the existing water quality objective for mercury in the water column (i.e., in the ambient water).

The mercury objectives are intended to protect human health since mercury can bioaccumulate through the food chain. Fish tissue objectives are more difficult to implement, but are beginning to be used in some waterways. The fish tissue objective will require a *translator* for converting the fish tissue objective into a corresponding water quality objective, which in turn is used to calculate effluent limits for permits. The translator typically takes into account local bioaccumulation factors (BAFs) – the greater the tendency to bioaccumulate, the lower the water quality objective.

The TMDL proposes nearly 50% reductions in the mercury loading to the Bay from storm water. The workshop/meeting is Jan. 31 in Oakland, contact Carrie Austin, caustin@waterboards.ca.gov for information. Mercury TMDL: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/sfbaymercurytmdl.htm> More information on methylmercury: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/methylmercury/factsheet.html>

Upcoming

- *Symposium - Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project* - Santa Barbara, **March 9 -10**; see "What's New" at www.scwrp.org
- *Short Course - Stormwater Treatment* - San Clemente; **March 13-14**; by Gary Minton, www.stormwaterbook.com.

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>